



AG DIGEST



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Highlights

**Cattle On Feed
Cold Storage
Agricultural Prices
Poultry
Livestock Slaughter**

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.35 million, 4 percent above 1998 and 3 percent above 1997.

Marketings during September totaled 1.68 million, 7 percent above 1998 and 10 percent above 1997.

Other disappearance during September was 55,000 head, 8 percent above 1998 and 31 percent above 1997.

The 7 States include AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, and TX.

The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm>

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 5 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.27 million head on October 1, 1999. The inventory was 5 percent above October 1, 1998 and 3 percent above October 1, 1997. The inventory included 6.21 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.02 million head, up 6 percent from 1998.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.76 million, 4 percent above 1998 and 2 percent above 1997. Net placements were 2.70 million. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 629,000, 600-699 pounds were 557,000, 700-799 pounds were 758,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 815,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.96 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 8 percent above 1997.

Other disappearance totaled 62,000 during September, 2 percent above 1998 and 17 percent above 1997.

CATTLE ON FEED IN HISTORIC 7 STATES UP 5 PERCENT: Cattle on feed October 1, 1999, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.78 million, up 5 percent from the previous year and 3 percent above October 1, 1997. The inventory included 5.28 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.48 million head, up 6 percent from 1998.

U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS¹

Commodity	Unit	Oct 1998	Sep 1999	Oct 1999
Dollars				
Wheat	Bu.	9.52	9.76	9.68
Corn	Bu.	6.47	6.67	6.62
Tobacco, PA Seedleaf, Type 41 .	Lb.	2.80	3.01	2.98
Soybeans	Bu.	13.90	14.10	14.00
All Milk, Sold to Plants ..	Cwt.	28.90	30.70	30.50
Wool	Lb.	4.07	1.95	1.93
Barley	Bu.	5.82	5.97	5.92
Oats	Bu.	3.57	3.49	3.46
Potatoes	Cwt.	12.60	13.40	13.30
Rye	Bu.	4.90	5.08	5.04
Apples, For Fresh Use ²	Lb.	.429	.452	.448
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	149.00	153.00	152.00
Calves	Cwt.	190.00	195.00	193.00
Hogs	Cwt.	101.00	103.00	102.00
Lambs	Cwt.	152.00	157.00	156.00
Sheep	Cwt.	62.10	65.60	65.10
Eggs	Doz.	1.43	1.50	1.49
Turkeys, Live	Lb.	.867	.898	.890

¹ Parity prices as computed currently using base prices in effect and indexes for month indicated. These parity prices are the legally applicable parity prices for the following calendar month. ² Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for apples for Washington and Oregon, equivalent first delivery point returns for California, and price at point of first sale for other states.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, OCTOBER, 1999

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Oct 1998	Sep 1999	Oct 1999 ¹	Oct 1998	Sep 1999	Oct 1999 ¹
Dollars							
Corn	Bu.	2.50	2.50	2.44	1.91	1.75	1.66
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	-	-	-	2.66	2.46	2.33
Oats	Bu.	1.40	1.52	1.54	1.09	1.08	1.08
Barley	Bu.	-	-	-	1.91	2.03	2.00
Hay, All	Ton	112.00	136.00	137.00	83.80	74.50	73.70
Alfalfa	Ton	126.00	157.00	151.00	86.90	77.30	76.00
Other	Ton	100.00	125.00	125.00	70.40	63.70	64.70
Apples, Fresh Use	Cwt.	24.00	22.00	20.00	22.10	23.20	23.50
Potatoes	Cwt.	6.25	6.00	6.25	4.47	5.15	4.75
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	31.30	35.80	35.50	30.50	34.60	34.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	57.40	62.30	63.80	61.40	67.10	70.10
Calves	Cwt.	80.40	107.00	109.00	75.70	90.90	92.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	26.50	31.90	33.60	28.20	34.20	34.60
Sows	Cwt.	17.20	18.30	20.30	18.80	23.00	24.20
Turkeys	Lb.	.430	.440	.460	.427	.445	.454
Broilers	Lb.	.420	.362	.331	.434	.365	.335
Eggs ²	Doz.	.560	.440	.400	.532	.397	.321
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	18.00	16.00	-	17.80	15.80	15.60
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	16.70	15.80	-	16.80	15.20	13.60
All	Cwt.	18.00	16.00	18.00	17.70	15.80	15.50
Milk Cows ³	Head	1,180.00	-	1,380.00	1,180.00	-	1,380.00

¹ Preliminary. ² Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ³ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.).

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DECLINES 5 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in October was 92 based on 1990-92=100, down 5 points (5.2 percent) from the September index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affect the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of milk, wheat, tobacco, and grapes more than offset the relatively higher marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton lint and cottonseed. These marketing changes decreased the index four points. Price decreases from September account for one point of the decline. Lower prices for broilers, corn, milk, and eggs more than offset price increases for cattle, tobacco, oranges, and cucumbers.

Compared with October 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.1 percent) lower. Price decreases from October 1998 for soybeans, broilers, milk, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, calves, hogs, and oranges.

All Crops: The October index was 88, down 7.4 percent from September and 12 percent below October 1998. Price decreases for feed grains and hay, vegetables, potatoes and dry beans, and oilseeds more than offset price increases for tobacco and cotton.

Food Grains: The October index, at 87, was down 1.1 percent from the previous month and 13 percent below October 1998. The October all wheat price, at \$2.49 per bushel, was down 8 cents from the September price and 28 cents below October 1998.

Feed Grains & Hay: The October index was 75, down 7.4 percent from last month and 12 percent below October 1998. The corn price, at \$1.66 per bushel, was down 9 cents from September and 25 cents below the October 1998 price. The all hay price, at \$73.70 per ton, was down 80 cents from last month and \$10.10 below October 1998.

Livestock and Products: The October index, at 97, was down 1.0 percent from both last month and October 1998. Compared with a year ago, prices were up for cattle, hogs, calves, and turkeys but down for all milk, broilers, and eggs.

Meat Animals: The October index, at 87, was up 3.6 percent from last month and up 16 percent from a year ago. The October hog price was \$34.10 per cwt, up 40 cents from September and up \$6.30 from a year ago. Strong retail demand and slightly higher exports pushed the price up. The October beef cattle price of \$66.10 per cwt was \$2.30 higher than last month and \$8.10 above October 1998.

Dairy Products: The October index, at 119, was down 1.7 percent from September and 13 percent from October 1998. The October all milk price, at \$15.50 per cwt, was down 30 cents from September and down \$2.20 from last year. September milk production was up 5.3 percent from last year. October prices decreased for both fluid and manufacturing grade milk.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 1,846,000 bushels on September 30, 1999, compared to 3,169,000 bushels on September 30, 1998. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: Golden Delicious with 947,000; Red Delicious with 302,000; and McIntosh with 112,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 77,532,000 pounds on September 30, 1999, compared to 133,098,000 pounds on September 30, 1998. Pear stocks in cold storage increased from previous year's stocks of 2,474,000 pounds to 3,085,000 pounds on September 30, 1999.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on September 30, 1999 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, chicken, pork, and fruit. Total frozen pork stocks, at 433 million pounds, broke the previous record September high of 389 million pounds set in 1998. Likewise, September 1999 stocks of chicken, at 976 million pounds, also broke the previous record September high of 606 million pounds set in 1998. Fruit also set a new September record high. Cooler stocks of peanuts were also higher than a year earlier.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 20 percent from the revised August 1999 data, but were 1 percent above September 1998. Frozen pork stocks were 18 percent below last month, but were up 11

percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies decreased 46 percent from last month, but were double the September 1998 stocks. Revised August 1999 red meat supplies were influenced by products awaiting export.

Total frozen poultry supplies were up 11 percent from last month and were 21 percent above last year's level. Total stocks of chicken were up 15 percent from last month and were 61 percent above September 1998. Total pounds of turkey in freezers increased 4 percent from last month, but were 14 percent below last year.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Sep 30, 1998	Aug 31, 1999	Sep 30, 1999
(000) Lbs.			
Butter	34,077	95,164	74,055
Cheese, Total Natural	552,995	697,571	638,332
Eggs, Frozen	8,195	8,810	8,420
Poultry, Total Frozen	1,309,802	1,431,965	1,538,137
Chicken	605,698	846,337	976,336
Turkeys	699,485	580,306	600,808
Fruits, Frozen	1,050,452	1,182,667	1,153,292
Fruit Juices, Frozen	2,236,660	1,980,554	1,824,320
Vegetables, Total Frozen	2,493,967	2,132,778	2,445,027
Potatoes, Total Frozen	1,266,844	1,169,812	1,234,350
Meats, Total Frozen	738,761	840,320	747,157
Beef, Total Frozen	323,063	377,866	291,946
Pork, Total Frozen	388,851	438,077	433,485

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, SEPTEMBER 1999

Variety	September 30, 1998					September 30, 1999				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
(1,000) Bushels										
York	18	0	298	94	410	2	1	4	0	7
Stayman	3	0	29	0	32	0	0	2	0	2
Rome	11	3	192	167	373	3	0	43	10	56
Red Delicious . . .	203	155	154	41	553	156	88	48	10	302
Golden Delicious .	138	127	579	316	1,160	127	29	394	397	947
Jonathan	16	0	84	0	100	16	0	80	0	96
McIntosh	75	0	40	0	115	94	0	8	10	112
Cortland	33	0	17	0	50	29	0	0	0	29
Other ²	67	34	271	4	376	137	17	120	21	295
Total	564	319	1,664	622	3,169	564	135	699	448	1,846

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PA & US, SEPTEMBER, 30, 1999

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	September 30, 1998	August 31, 1999	September 30, 1999
PENNSYLVANIA (1,000) Lbs.			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	93,576	3,780	53,046
Controlled Atmosphere	39,522	4,284	24,486
Total Apples	133,098	8,064	77,532
PEARS:			
Bartletts	232	58	271
Other Varieties	2,242	6	2,814
Total Pears	2,474	64	3,085
UNITED STATES			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	1,303,528	15,056	940,713
Controlled Atmosphere	2,153,015	87,467	1,888,114
Total Apples	3,456,543	102,523	2,828,827
PEARS:			
Bartletts	142,611	123,756	191,042
Other Varieties	390,947	6,417	360,591
Total Pears	533,558	130,173	551,633

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Sep 1998	Aug 1999	Sep 1999	Sep 1998	Aug 1999	Sep 1999
Layers	Thous.	21,639	22,395	22,477	311,278	320,166	322,245
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,218	2,286	2,251	2,082	2,177	2,126
Eggs Produced	Million	480	512	506	6,480	6,970	6,850
Chick Hatch-Egg Type . . .	Thous.	6,386	4,612	5,329	37,943	35,453	38,841
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type .	Thous.	12,532	12,634	12,357	695,281	741,253	699,664
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	21,124	24,767	21,794

EGG PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania egg production totaled 506 million during September, up 5 percent from the September 1998 production. There were an average of 22.5 million layers in the Commonwealth during the month, up 4 percent from September 1998. Average production per 100 layers was 2,251 eggs, compared with 2,218 eggs during the previous September.

Egg-type chicks hatched totaled 5.33 million in September, 17 percent less than the 6.39 million one year ago. Cumulative egg-type hatch for 1999 is 49.1 million, up 2 percent from the 48.2 million hatched during the same period last year. There were 12.4 million broiler-type chicks hatched last month, down 1 percent from September 1998. Cumulative broiler-type hatch for 1999, at 115.2 million chicks, was less than 1 percent higher than the 114.3 million hatched January through September 1998.

United States - Egg production in the United States totaled 6.85 billion during September, up 6 percent from the 6.48 billion produced the previous year. The total number of layers during the month averaged 322 million, up 4 percent from the average number of layers during September 1998.

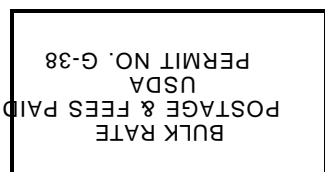
September egg-type chicks hatched totaled 38.8 million, up 2 percent from last year. Broiler-type hatch, at 700 million chicks, was up 1 percent from September 1998. Turkey eggs in incubators on October 1, 1999, totaled 28.3 million, up 1 percent from October 1 a year ago. A total of 21.8 million turkey poults were placed during the month, up 3 percent from September 1998.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, SEP 1999

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	79.8	3,101
	Mil. Lbs. Live	98.5	3,753
Calves	Thous. Hd.	17.5	121
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.4	34
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	225.6	8,644
	Mil. Lbs. Live	54.6	2,208
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	6.1	307
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.6	39
Red Meat Prod. .	Mil. Lbs.	97.2	3,934

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in the state during September 1999 totaled 97.2 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up less than 1 percent from September 1998. Beef production, at 98.5 million pounds live weight, was 6 percent less than September 1998. Total head slaughtered was 79,800, down 5 percent from last year. Live weight averaged 1,234 pounds, a decrease of 26 pounds from last year. Veal production was 5.4 million pounds live weight, 3 percent more than a year ago. Calf slaughter of 17,500 head was down 7 percent; average live weight increased 30 pounds to 310 pounds. Pork production, at 54.6 million pounds live weight, was up 14 percent from September 1998. Total head slaughtered was 225,600, up 11 percent from 1998. Average live weight at slaughter was 242 pounds, up 6 pounds from last year. Lamb and mutton production was 570,000 pounds live weight, down 4 percent. The number slaughtered was 6,100, up 5 percent from September of last year. The average live weight decreased 8 pounds to 94 from September 1998.



PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE
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 OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300